

World Investment Report 2025

International investment in the digital economy

Country Fact Sheet:

United Arab Emirates

Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

(Millions of dollars and per cent)

FDI flows							As a percentage of gross fixed capital formation				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
United Arab Emirates											
Inward	19 884	20 667	22 737	30 688	45 632	48.7	29.7	23.5	22.6	29.1	40.4
Outward	18 937	22 546	24 833	22 328	23 399	4.8	28.3	25.6	24.7	21.2	20.7
<i>Memorandum</i>											
Qatar											
Inward	-2 434	-1 093	76	- 474	460	..	-	-	-	-	-
Outward	2 730	160	2 384	- 191	1 563	..	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia											
Inward	1 621	28 350	26 710	22 803	15 737	-31.0	0.9	13.3	9.8	7.7	5.0
Outward	5 411	24 674	26 531	17 345	22 046	27.1	3.1	11.6	9.7	5.8	7.0
West Asia											
Inward	30 490	69 166	69 507	78 392	82 082	4.7	5.9	10.9	8.7	8.6	8.3
Outward	38 283	57 502	86 736	60 565	66 688	10.1	6.4	8.9	10.6	6.7	6.6
Developing Asia											
Inward	505 590	672 890	676 707	622 329	604 517	-2.9	5.7	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.2
Outward	379 078	456 151	471 405	467 020	454 306	-2.7	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	3.9
Developing economies*											
Inward	640 943	899 486	929 609	865 408	867 162	0.2	6.2	7.3	7.2	6.6	6.4
Outward	380 053	504 286	547 939	517 428	491 478	-5.0	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.7
World*											
Inward	868 563	1 676 523	1 389 526	1 454 976	1 508 803	3.7	3.9	6.6	5.2	5.3	5.3
Outward	648 576	1 914 411	1 568 613	1 556 106	1 608 874	3.4	2.9	7.6	5.9	5.7	5.7

FDI Stock							As a percentage of gross domestic product				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
United Arab Emirates											
Inward	150 896	171 563	194 300	224 987	270 619	20.3	43.2	41.3	38.6	43.8	50.4
Outward	192 501	215 047	239 880	262 208	285 607	8.9	55.1	51.8	47.7	51.0	53.2
<i>Memorandum</i>											
Qatar											
Inward	28 627	27 534	27 610	27 136	27 596	1.7	19.8	15.3	11.7	12.7	12.5
Outward	47 510	47 670	50 054	49 862	51 425	3.1	32.9	26.5	21.2	23.4	23.2
Saudi Arabia											
Inward	152 192	181 532	210 943	239 293	255 030	6.6	20.7	20.8	19.0	22.4	23.5
Outward	130 437	154 673	185 895	205 033	229 018	11.7	17.8	17.7	16.8	19.2	21.1
West Asia											
Inward	831 711	796 997	978 781	989 771	1 054 917	6.6	32.5	26.6	29.0	28.1	28.0
Outward	531 558	582 023	661 925	720 677	788 728	9.4	21.0	19.7	18.3	19.2	19.7
Developing Asia											
Inward	8 270 169	10 400 842	10 675 499	11 176 326	11 784 268	5.4	32.0	34.1	33.7	34.7	35.1
Outward	7 000 498	7 514 453	7 688 665	8 166 120	8 668 698	6.2	27.3	24.8	24.3	25.3	25.8
Developing economies*											
Inward	11 394 020	13 819 118	14 398 133	15 325 263	15 812 885	3.2	34.8	35.9	35.5	36.7	36.7
Outward	8 087 927	8 633 936	8 815 011	9 287 453	9 878 183	6.4	25.2	22.9	22.0	22.5	23.1
World*											
Inward	41 278 103	46 509 216	43 733 573	48 097 605	50 907 355	5.8	48.2	47.6	43.1	45.3	46.2
Outward	40 048 460	42 226 844	39 492 629	42 596 581	43 594 995	2.3	47.1	43.5	39.0	40.3	39.7

Cross-border merger and acquisition (M&A) overview, 2021–2024

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	Sales (net)					Purchases (net)				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %
United Arab Emirates	1 520	9 138	1 582	-1 422	..	6 661	6 865	7 293	10 630	45.8
Memorandum										
Qatar	- 103	-	-	- 338	..	- 681	380	-1 610	157	..
Saudi Arabia	24 458	15 789	- 154	497	..	333	6 689	16 599	4 164	-74.9
West Asia	31 062	39 171	3 388	- 140	..	7 642	24 336	23 084	11 710	-49.3
Developing Asia	107 830	88 441	58 280	24 800	-57.4	43 337	51 726	78 102	52 949	-32.2
Developing economies*	123 121	113 099	78 869	24 364	-69.1	39 686	49 168	76 156	51 499	-32.4
World*	759 152	725 459	387 066	442 692	14.4	759 152	725 459	387 066	442 692	14.4

Announced greenfield investment project overview, 2021–2024

(Millions of dollars)

	As destination					As source				
Region/economy	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %	2021	2022	2023	2024	Growth rate, 2023-2024 %
United Arab Emirates	10 208	14 952	18 415	13 964	-24.2	17 796	90 037	71 233	71 975	1.0
Memorandum										
Qatar	1 860	30 343	365	2 635	623.0	647	1 171	11 681	12 943	10.8
Saudi Arabia	9 659	14 317	30 621	22 612	-26.2	5 064	32 467	27 586	15 811	-42.7
West Asia	35 807	83 520	102 184	56 114	-45.1	30 930	128 997	124 083	116 798	-5.9
Developing Asia	179 993	302 270	469 694	362 822	-22.8	144 115	333 055	441 004	353 762	-19.8
Developing economies*	306 834	614 053	785 725	640 101	-18.5	161 743	352 570	467 005	377 578	-19.1
World*	889 325	1 302 481	1 412 978	1 337 922	-5.3	889 325	1 302 481	1 412 978	1 337 922	-5.3

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2025* (<https://unctad.org/wir> or <https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>).

*Excluding Caribbean offshore financial centres and special-purpose entities in reporting countries.

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This fact sheet and additional information on the *World Investment Report 2025* and the Report itself can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/wir>

The sources for all this information are the *World Investment Report 2025* and UNCTAD FDI/MNE database.

This database can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>

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